

# EXPLORING ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN ATTRIBUTES IMPACTING STAFF PERCEPTIONS OF SAFETY IN A COMPLEX HOSPITAL SYSTEM: implications for healthcare design

The study delves into the critical relationship between physical environmental factors and staff perceptions of safety in healthcare settings. Through a comprehensive investigation involving 1,145 clinical and non-clinical staff, the research identifies significant predictors of staff satisfaction with staff and patient safety outcomes. In addition to confirming existing knowledge, this research unveils novel insights by highlighting previously overlooked elements in the physical environment, including positive distractions, spatial layout, signage, and comfortable furniture, as significant predictors of staff satisfaction regarding safety perceptions. Policymakers and planners are encouraged to utilize these findings to develop evidence-based policies that prioritize staff and patient safety in healthcare infrastructure.



## What is the implication, and what should change now?

The implication is the urgent need to integrate user-centered, evidence-based solutions into healthcare planning to address significant predictors of staff safety perceptions, including privacy, cleanliness, security measures, signage clarity, and ergonomic furniture, fostering the development of safer healthcare environments.

## The top 5 elements that studies have shown to maximize the sense of safety and security in healthcare environments are:



**Privacy Enhancement:** Prioritizing patient and staff privacy through measures such as private rooms, sound-absorbing materials, and strategic spatial design to uphold confidentiality and comfort.



**Safety-Conscious Space Planning:** Implementing efficient spatial layouts and wayfinding strategies to minimize hazards, enhance accessibility, and reduce the risk of falls, promoting both staff and patient safety.



### Cleanliness Standards & Infection Control:

Emphasizing improved cleaning protocols and selecting appropriate flooring materials to mitigate infection risks, ensuring a hygienic environment for both staff and patients.



**Security Measures:** Integrating security features such as well-planned lighting, accessible exits, dedicated personnel stations, badge access systems, and optimized security station proximity to enhance safety perceptions for both staff and patients.



### Team Visibility & Comfort:

Promoting team collaboration and staff well-being through open layouts, comfortable furniture, positive distractions, and efficient signage, fostering a supportive and safe healthcare environment for all stakeholders.

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